

Appendix F – Avian Identification Guide

AVIAN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

AVIAN IDENTIFICATION GUIDE - Environmental Services Pager: 888-533-0371

Kavanagh/Leung



Piping Plover



Barn Owl



Red-tailed Hawk



Least Tern



Bald Eagle

FEDERAL & STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN



Piping Plover
Charadrius alexandrinus
USA
To 7 in. (18 cm)

Upland Sandpiper
Arenaria interpres
IL
To 12 in. (30 cm)
Note: sand bar and log tail.

Wilson's Phalarope
Phalaropus lobatus
IL
To 10 in. (25 cm)



Common Tern
Sterna hirundo
IL
To 15 in. (38 cm)
Note: black cap and folded tail. Orange tail is black tipped.

Least Tern
Sterna antillarum
IL
To 10 in. (25 cm)
Note: red breast and yellow tail.



Black Tern
Chelidon nigricans
IL
To 10 in. (25 cm)

American Bittern
Icthyophaga atripes
IL
To 12 in. (30 cm)



King Rail
Rallus elegans
IL, MO, IL
To 15 in. (38 cm)

Black Rail
Tringa melanoleuca
IL
To 14 in. (35 cm)



Common Gallinule
Gallinula galeata
IL
To 16 in. (41 cm)

Black Gallinule
Gallinula melanotos
IL
To 16 in. (41 cm)

FEDERAL & STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Nyctanassa violacea
IL
To 28 in. (70 cm)

Whooping Crane
Grus americana
USA
To 4 ft. (1.2 m)



Snowy Egret
Egretta thula
MO, IL
To 26 in. (65 cm)
Note: black bill and yellow feet.



Little Blue Heron
Egretta caerulea
IL
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Note: maroon neck.

Greater Prairie-Chicken
Tympanuchus cupido
To 18 in. (45 cm)
MO



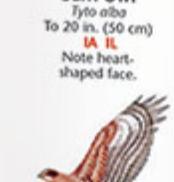
Long-eared Owl
Asio otus
IA
To 16 in. (40 cm)

Short-eared Owl
Asio flammeus
IA, IL
To 17 in. (43 cm)



Red-tailed Hawk
Buteo jamaicensis
To 25 in. (63 cm)

Rough-legged Hawk
Buteo lagopus
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Note: dark banded white tail and dark 'wrist'.



Barn Owl
Tyto alba
To 20 in. (50 cm)
IA, IL
Note: heart-shaped face.



Red-shouldered Hawk
Buteo lineatus
IA
To 22 in. (55 cm)

FEDERAL & STATE SPECIES OF CONCERN



Snow Goose
Chen caerulescens
To 31 in. (78 cm)

Greater White-fronted Goose
Anser albifrons
To 30 in. (75 cm)

Canada Goose
Branta canadensis
To 45 in. (1.14 m)

Wood Duck
Aix sponsa
To 20 in. (50 cm)

Gadwall
Anas strepera
To 23 in. (58 cm)

Mallard
Anas platyrhynchos
To 28 in. (70 cm)

Blue-winged Teal
Anas discors
To 16 in. (40 cm)

Northern Shoveler
Anas clypeata
To 20 in. (50 cm)
Named for its large spatulate bill.

Northern Pintail
Anas acuta
To 30 in. (75 cm)

Green-winged Teal
Anas crecca
To 16 in. (40 cm)

Canvasback
Aythya valisineria
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Note: sloping forehead and black bill.

Ring-necked Duck
Aythya collaris
To 18 in. (45 cm)
Note: white ring near bill tip.

WATERFOWL



Snow Goose
Chen caerulescens
To 31 in. (78 cm)

Greater White-fronted Goose
Anser albifrons
To 30 in. (75 cm)

Canada Goose
Branta canadensis
To 45 in. (1.14 m)



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Aix sponsa
To 20 in. (50 cm)

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To 23 in. (58 cm)



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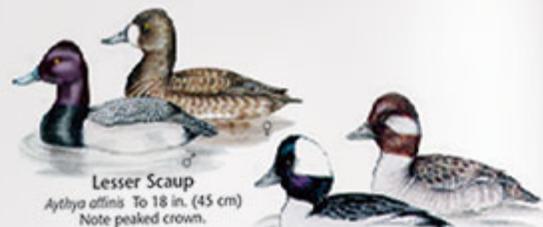
Canvasback
Aythya valisineria
To 2 ft. (60 cm)
Note: sloping forehead and black bill.



Ring-necked Duck
Aythya collaris
To 18 in. (45 cm)
Note: white ring near bill tip.



WATERFOWL & SHOREBIRDS



Lesser Scaup
Aythya affinis
To 18 in. (45 cm)
Note peaked crown.

Bufflehead
Bucephala albeola
To 15 in. (38 cm)



Common Goldeneye
Bucephala clangula
To 20 in. (50 cm)

Hooded Merganser
Lophodytes cucullatus
To 20 in. (50 cm)



Common Merganser
Mergus merganser
To 27 in. (68 cm)
Note thin bill.

Ruddy Duck
Oxyura jamaicensis
To 16 in. (40 cm)
Note blue bill.



Killdeer
Charadrius vociferans
To 12 in. (30 cm)
Note two breast bands.

Ring-billed Gull
Larus delawarensis
To 20 in. (50 cm)
Bill has dark ring.

Herring Gull
Larus argentatus
To 26 in. (65 cm)
Legs are pinkish.

Least Sandpiper
Calidris minutilla
To 6 in. (15 cm)

Semipalmated Sandpiper
Calidris pusilla
To 7 in. (18 cm)

Pectoral Sandpiper
Calidris melanotos
To 9 in. (23 cm)

SONGBIRDS



Horned Lark
Otocorys alpestris
To 8 in. (20 cm)

Tree Swallow
Icthyophaga boscii
To 6 in. (15 cm)

Blue Jay
Cyanocitta cristata
To 14 in. (35 cm)



Northern Rough-winged Swallow
Salpinctes obsoletus
To 6 in. (15 cm)
Note dusky throat.

Cliff Swallow
Hirundo lunifrons
To 6 in. (15 cm)
Bill a square shape.



Barn Swallow
Hirundo lunifrons
To 8 in. (20 cm)
Note deeply forked tail.

Tufted Titmouse
Parus ruficeps
To 6 in. (15 cm)



Black-capped Chickadee
Parus atricapillus
To 8 in. (20 cm)

Eastern Bluebird
Sialia sialis
To 7 in. (18 cm)



White-breasted Nuthatch
Sitta carolinensis
To 6 in. (15 cm)

House Wren
Troglodytes aedon
To 5 in. (13 cm)

SONGBIRDS



Eastern Phoebe
Sayornis phoebe
To 7 in. (18 cm)

Western Kingbird
Tyrannus verticalis
To 8 in. (20 cm)
Note yellowish belly and square-tipped tail.

Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus tyrannus
To 8 in. (20 cm)
Note broad white tail band.



Warbling Vireo
Vireo gilvus
To 5 in. (13 cm)
Note light breast and eye stripe.

Cedar Waxwing
Bombycilla cedrorum
To 7 in. (18 cm)
Red wing marks look like waxy droplets.

Red-eyed Vireo
Vireo olivaceus
To 6 in. (15 cm)
Note gray crown and red eye.



Lapland Longspur
Colinus lapponicus
To 7 in. (18 cm)

Snow Bunting
Plectrophenax nivalis
To 8 in. (20 cm)



Indigo Bunting
Passina cyanea
To 6 in. (15 cm)

Northern Cardinal
Cardinalis cardinalis
To 9 in. (23 cm)



American Tree Sparrow
Spizella arborea
To 7 in. (18 cm)
Note chestnut cap and small breast spot.

Dickcissel
Spiza americana
To 7 in. (18 cm)



SONGBIRDS & BLACKBIRDS



Chipping Sparrow
Spizella passerina
To 5 in. (13 cm)
Note chestnut cap.

White-throated Sparrow
Zonotrichia albicollis
To 7 in. (18 cm)
Note white throat and pale yellow breast.

Song Sparrow
Melospiza cinerea
To 7 in. (18 cm)
Note yellow breast and red cap.



Dark-eyed Junco
Junco hyemalis
To 7 in. (18 cm)

American Goldfinch
Carduelis tristis
To 5 in. (13 cm)



Pine Siskin
Spinus pinus
To 5 in. (13 cm)

Water Thrush
Seiurus aurocapillus
To 6 in. (15 cm)
Note white throat and red breast.



Red-winged Blackbird
Aegialia phoeniceus
To 9 in. (23 cm)

Eastern Kingbird
Tyrannus carolinensis
To 7 in. (18 cm)



Baltimore Oriole
Icterus galbula
To 8 in. (20 cm)

Common Grackle
Quiscalus quisquam
To 10 in. (25 cm)

WARBLERS & WOODPECKERS



Common Yellowthroat
Geothlypis trichas
To 5 in. (13 cm)

Gray Catbird
Dumetella carolinensis
To 9 in. (23 cm)
Note black cap and red undertail feathers.



American Redstart
Setophaga ruticilla
To 5 in. (13 cm)

Yellow Warbler
Setophaga petechia
To 5 in. (13 cm)

Yellow-rumped Warbler
Setophaga coronata
To 6 in. (15 cm)
Note yellow on rump and crown and white throat.



American Robin
Turdus migratorius
To 11 in. (28 cm)

Great Blue Heron
Ardea herodias
To 4.5 ft. (1.4 m)



Red-headed Woodpecker
Melanerpes erythrocephalus
To 10 in. (25 cm)

American White Pelican
Pelecanus erythrorhynchos
To 5 ft. (1.5 m)



Northern Flicker
Colaptes auratus
To 13 in. (33 cm)
Wing and tail linings are yellow.

Downy Woodpecker
Picoides pubescens
To 6 in. (15 cm)
The similar hairy woodpecker is larger and has a longer bill.

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Melanerpes formicivorus
To 11 in. (28 cm)

WILDEBIRDS



Great Horned Owl
Bubo virginianus
To 24 in. (61 cm)

Barred Owl
Strix varia
To 21 in. (53 cm)



American Osprey
Pandion haliaetus
To 24 in. (61 cm)

American Redtail
Buteo lineatus
To 21 in. (53 cm)



Sharp-shinned Hawk
Accipiter cooperii
To 11 in. (28 cm)

Broad-winged Hawk
Buteo lineatus
To 21 in. (53 cm)



American Crow
Corvus americanus
To 18 in. (46 cm)

House Sparrow
Passer domesticus
To 8 in. (20 cm)